

20 September 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chairman, Interagency Intelligence Committee on Terrorism

FROM :
Chief, Terrorism Branch

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SUBJECT : Translation and Processing of Foreign Language Documents on International Terrorism

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1. Background. This memorandum contains a preliminary assessment of the value to the Intelligence Community's terrorism components of the FBIS program to translate and disseminate foreign language terrorism documents. This memorandum also identifies related issues requiring further IICT attention. The undersigned was requested to undertake this survey by the Chairman at the IICT meeting on 26 August 1982.

2. To date, FBIS has translated and disseminated 14 volumes in the series Worldwide Report, Terrorism. IICT member agencies were asked to provide informal evaluations of the overall value of the program and to identify those documents of high interest and of no interest. The Office of Security/Threat Analysis Group/Department of State, which initially provided most of the foreign language documents for translation, and the Terrorism Branch/Central Intelligence Agency responded with detailed evaluations; The Defense Intelligence Agency, U.S. Secret Service and Army Intelligence Command also responded.

3. Discussion. The respondents believed the FBIS program to have positive value and favored its continuation. Evaluations of translations ranged from moderately useful to of high interest and great value. The respondents were agreed that, at a minimum, the translations were valuable background for terrorism analysts; State, CIA and Army believed translated documents often included unique and valuable primary source material. Those agencies that evaluated individual documents rated about half useful and half of little to no value.

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